



# NOTICE/AGENDA

## STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING POSTED AT: [www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov)

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### TELECONFERENCE LOCATION

SCDD HQ OFFICE  
North Freeway Blvd., #125  
Sacramento, CA 95834

### JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:

Call-In Number: (888) 475-4499  
Meeting ID: **961 0387 0208**

### JOIN VIA ZOOM:

Meeting ID:  
Password:

[2024.LPPC.MEETING](#)  
**961 0387 0208**  
**160244**

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**DATE:** January 16, 2024  
**TIME:** 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

### COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Harold Ashe

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**Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

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**Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

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**Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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<b>Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>	Page 3
<i>This item is for members of the public to provide comments and/or present information to this body on matters not listed on the agenda. There will be up to 20 minutes allocated to hear from the public with each person allotted up to 3 minutes to comment.</i>	
<i>Additionally, there will be up to 10 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each Council agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.</i>	
<b>Item 5. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2023 MINUTES</b> 	Page 4
<b>Item 6. PURPOSE OF LPPC AND OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PROCESS FOR JANUARY THROUGH MARCH</b>	Page 8
<i>Bridget Kolakosky, Deputy Director</i>	
<b>Item 7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</b>	Page 9
<i>Bridget Kolakosky, Deputy Director</i>	
<b>Item 8. 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY FOCUSED PRESENTATION: Health, Home, Work – Legislating for a Thriving Tomorrow!</b>	Page 21
<i>Invited Guest Speakers: Brianna Pittman, California Dental Association</i>	
<b>Item 9. UPDATES AND STANDING AGENDA ITEMS</b>	Page 22
a. Council Updates	
b. DDS Taskforce and Workgroup Updates	
c. Self-Determination Program	
d. CalABLE	
<b>Item 10. MEMBER UPDATES</b>	Page 24
<i>All</i>	
<b>Item 11. 2024 MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT</b>	
<i>March 14<sup>th</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup></i>	

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**January 16, 2024**

**AGENDA ITEM 4.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC**

***Public Comment***

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This item is for members of the public to provide comments and/or present information to this body on matters not listed on the agenda. There will be up to 20 minutes allocated to hear from the public with each person allotted up to 3 minutes to comment.

Additionally, there will be up to 10 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each Council agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

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January 16, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM 5.**

**ACTION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC**

***Approval of October 2023 Minutes***

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Members will review and approve the October 2023 meeting minutes.

***Action Recommended***

Approve the October 26, 2023, minutes.

***Attachment(s)***

October 2023 Meeting Minutes



**DRAFT**  
**Legislative and Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 26, 2023**

**Attending Members**

Harold Ashe (FA)  
Julie Neward (FA)  
Nicole Adler (SA)  
Rosie Ryan (SA)  
Viviana Barnwell (FA)  
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)

**Members Absent**

Alex Reyes (SA)  
Andy Imparato (DRC)  
Connie Lapin (FA)

**Others Attending**

Aaron Carruthers  
Beth Hurn  
Bridget Kolakosky  
Jadolphus Fraser  
Michelle Cave  
Rachel Liebert Lewis  
Raquel Gibbons  
Robin Maitino-Erben  
Veronica Bravo  
Chris Arroyo

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Harold Ashe called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM.

**2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

**3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved/seconded (Witherspoon [SA]/Ryan [SA]) and carried to adopt the March 16, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. (Motion passed. Councilmember Viviana Barnwell was not present for the vote and Councilmembers Julie Neward and Nicole Adler Abstained. See page one for a record of members present.)

## 6. STATE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATES

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky provided members with an update on the status of legislation that the Council supported in 2023 and items in the state budget related to the Council's employment priorities. Effective on July 1, 2024, the LEAP SIP program will be made permanent, and the Employment First Office will be created under that California Health and Human Services Agency. The full presentation can be viewed here: [Oct-2023-LPPC-Legislative-Update PPT.](#)

## 7. 2024 LEGISLATIVE PLANNING

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky provided a presentation of the legislative process and timeline and provided members with an update on the 2023 "There Should Be a Law" contest. Family advocate Raquel Gibbons won the 2023 There Should Be a Law Contest for her proposal to create mental health centers with wrap around care for children with aggressive behaviors. Ms. Gibbons joined the meeting and presented her bill idea and discussed her experiences with having a child with co-occurring mental health and I/DD. A copy of the full report can be found at [2023-There-Should-Be-a-Law-Report.](#)

Members reviewed the Council's 2021-2026 State Plan and 2023-2024 Policy Priorities and discussed policy ideas for 2024. In response to current events and in alignment with Council priorities, staff recommended "health, home, work" as the areas of focus. Members discussed policies that they would like to focus on within these areas, which included mental health and wellness and support and education services for siblings of people with I/DD. Members discussed the possibility of expanding demographic data collection to inform the Council's policy work.

It was moved/seconded (Adler [SA]/Neward) and carried to recommend that the Council focus on legislative priorities that fall under the theme of "Health, Home, Work" in 2024. (Motion passed unanimously, Councilmember Wesley Witherspoon was not present for the vote. See page one for a record of members present.)

## 8. INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH AND SAFETY DEAP

SCDD Sequoia Regional Office Manager Yolanda Cruz provided a presentation on the recent activities and accomplishments of the Council's Health and Safety Disability Expert Advisory Panel (DEAP).

The DEAP monitors and tracks emerging issues related to health and safety, along with developing curriculum for and conducting a variety of law enforcement and first responder trainings and building coalitions to promote the health and safety of people with I/DD. Ms. Cruz gave an overview of some of the issues that the DEAP is currently focusing on, which include wandering/elopement, continuing to train those who work in the criminal justice system to interact safely with people with I/DD, supports for people with co-occurring mental/behavioral health and disabilities, and trainings about consent, healthy relationships, grooming and catfishing for people with I/DD.

**9. UPDATES AND STANDING AGENDA ITEMS**

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky provided a summary of the September 2023 Council meeting. Hyperlinks for official agency updates on the DDS Taskforce and Workgroup, Self-Determination Program and CalABLE were provided to members in the packet and in the Zoom meeting chat.

**10. MEMBER UPDATES**

There were no member updates provided.

**11. FUTURE MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The committee will meet on January 16, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 2:24 PM.

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January 16, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM 6.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC**

***Purpose of LPPC and Overview of Legislative and Budget Process for  
January Through March***

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Deputy Director Bridget Kolakosky will provide members with an overview of the Committee's purpose and go over the state legislative and budget process. This presentation will help inform the rest of the meeting.

***Handout(s)***

May be handouts the day of the meeting.

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**January 16, 2024**

**AGENDA ITEM 7.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC**

***Legislative Update***

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The purpose of this agenda item is to update members on legislative activities related to the Council's 2024 legislative priorities.

***Attachment(s)***

Legislative Update Presentation  
2022-26 State Plan  
2023-24 Policy Priorities

***Handout(s)***

May be handouts the day of the meeting.

# Legislative Update

Bridget Kolakosky

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# Select Committee Hearing on Opportunities and Barriers for People with Disabilities in the Workplace

December 5, 2023

# Purpose of the Informational Hearing

- To learn why there is a low employment rate among people with disabilities and the challenges they face
- What the state can do to improve policy
- How to connect more people with disabilities with meaningful employment
- Members of the Select Committee heard from different experts and consultants
- These included SCDD, Disability Rights CA (DRC), employers and others

# Takeaways from the Informational Hearing

## Overview of Workers with Disabilities Perspective

- Lack of workplace accommodations
  - Lack of meaningful outreach in state government
  - Persons with I/DD have a lower employment rate than PWD
- Employment rates for persons with I/DD remain low despite the 2013 Employment First Policy
  - Must encourage employer compliance and enforce as opposed to getting into litigation

# Takeaways from the Hearing

## Overview of Employers Perspective

- SMUD said they have inclusive hiring and training for staff as a solution to improve hiring of PWD
- Chamber of Commerce recommends educating/training employers on labor law and best practices for hiring and retaining i.e. find mentor
- Solutions to Increase Accessibility in the Workplace
- Remove stigma, it is a huge barrier to in employment hiring process
- Educate employers on the value people with I/DD can bring to a job
- Employers need to change hiring practices, have inclusive practices



# THANK YOU!

Any questions?

# Revised 2022-26 State Plan

## Goal 1: Self-Advocacy

**By 2026, the Council will maintain and/or increase the number of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities to become strong self-advocates, peer trainers and community leaders.**

### Objectives

**1.1**

The Council will provide information and resources through 250 regional/statewide self-advocacy chats, 40 regional/statewide projects/events and 125 trainings to strengthen 12,000 self-advocates in:

- 1) Achieving self-governance with supports, as requested;
- 2) Identifying and asking for the supports and services that they need;
- 3) Becoming and serving as peer trainers;
- 4) Developing skills and opportunities to engage as strong activists for issues that are important to them and their families; and,
- 5) Participating in culturally diverse, cross-disability coalitions.

**1.2**

The Council will collaborate with and/or support self-advocates in peer networks, including culturally diverse, cross-disability coalitions, by providing facilitation, tangible supports and peer advocacy/leadership opportunities through at least 1 statewide and 12 regional self-advocacy entities, reaching 6,000 self-advocates.

**1.3**

In the event of unforeseen project opportunities, emerging needs, and/or community, cross-regional or statewide requests, the Council may engage in additional activities with and/or on behalf of self-advocates and those who support and serve them.

**Goal 2: Systems Change/Advocacy**

**By 2026, the Council will lead in partnership with family/self-advocates and others to protect and enhance civil rights to improve community-based systems and be more fully inclusive and supportive of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families.**

**Objectives**

<p><b>2.1</b></p>	<p>The Council will monitor and collaborate with local, regional and/or statewide entities to develop, improve and/or change 75 practices, 60 policies, and 15 regulations (or guidance), statutes and/or laws in the systems of regional centers, community-based services, and governmental entities. This work will include the areas of employment, education, housing, health/safety and/or emerging issues in ways that will benefit people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and protect their civil rights, promote full inclusion, and/or provide additional supports and services, improving their lives in tangible ways.</p>
<p><b>2.2</b></p>	<p>The Council will engage in 40 regional and 5 statewide innovative/special projects and/or events in the areas of employment, education, housing, health/safety and/or self-determination to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1)</b> Support 30,000 people (family/self-advocates and others) in systems change efforts and give them information, skills and/or supports to increase their abilities to become effective advocates;</li> <li><b>2)</b> Engage in professional training and/or other efforts to implement systems, demonstrate or support systems change; and/or,</li> <li><b>3)</b> Increase services and/or improve supports for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families.</li> </ol>
<p><b>2.3</b></p>	<p>The Council, in collaboration with California’s four (4) partners (one Protection and Advocacy agency and three University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities), will seek to improve the generic service system that impacts people with intellectual/developmental disabilities by choosing one or more areas of emphasis in the State Plan, such as education, employment, housing, and/or health/safety, and report on how that system is serving people with I/DD, gaps in that service delivery system, recommendations on how to improve the systems to meet the goals of the DD Act, and/or pursue policy and practice changes in those areas. The collaboration will result in the review or development of 2 reports, 6 recommendations for policy or practice changes, and 2 Legislative or Administrative changes to policy or practice.</p>

## Goal 3: Capacity-Building/Advocacy

**By 2026, the Council will increase partnerships with and support of more people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, so they know their rights and can advocate for and receive supports and services.**

### Objectives

**3.1**

The Council will increase the capacity of 70,000 people with assistance and resources to identify and obtain the supports and services to help people with intellectual/developmental disabilities live a safer and healthier life, by:

- 1.** Establishing and/or collaborating with and supporting 10 family-advocate groups/networks,
- 2.** Providing (staff-led, peer-led and/or collaborative) training to 45,000 people (family/self-advocates/others) throughout the state – virtually, online and/or in person, and
- 3.** Providing technical assistance (TA)/advocacy clinics, reaching 25,000 people.

**3.2**

The Council will engage in 100 projects and events in the areas of employment, education, housing, health/safety, and/or emerging issues, reaching 25,000 people (family/self-advocates/others) with information and resources to enhance their knowledge and increase their capacity to obtain supports and services that are important to them.

**3.3**

In order to reduce the disparities in obtaining a free, appropriate public education, the Council will work with 5,000 Spanish-speaking family/self-advocates throughout the state to advocate for and increase the number and type/quality of special education services they receive through their own local education agencies.



## Policy Priorities 2023-24

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### **PROTECTING AND ENHANCING CIVIL RIGHTS**

Every person with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) has the right to self-determination, equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency no matter their disability.

*The Council will work to ensure civil rights, including identification and reduction of racial and ethnic inequalities and disparities, are protected and enhanced and full implementation of state/federal policies including but not limited to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Home and Community-Based Services Settings Rule, Every Student Succeeds Act and Achieving Better Life Experience Act.*

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### **GUARANTEEING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

Every student with I/DD has the right to a quality inclusive education with their peers that prepares them for post-secondary education and/or competitive integrated employment (CIE). Students with disabilities must be provided the same opportunities for learning, in the classroom and online, as students without disabilities.

Every person with I/DD should have the opportunity to be employed in CIE. Individuals must have access to information, benefits counseling, transition planning, job training, career exploration and information and support for inclusive post-secondary education. New or expanded pathways to CIE must be developed and supported, including apprenticeships and internships.

*The Council will work to ensure the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Every Student Succeeds Act and other federal and state policies to ensure that students with disabilities are provided the services and supports needed to receive quality inclusive education.*

*The Council will work to ensure the full and robust implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and California's Employment First Law, that policies and practices improve opportunities for and incentivize CIE, to create hiring incentives and supports for all employers and contractors and make the state a model employer.*

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### **IDENTIFYING & PRIORITIZING EMERGING ISSUES IN THE I/DD COMMUNITY**

Every person with a developmental disability should not have to deal with problems of that arise due to the emergence of inequality issues in the community. Events in our every day lives, both due to policy changes and unforeseen events, have the ability to cause unintended consequences for the I/DD community. These issues must be identified and acted upon swiftly to ensure as little harm as possible is inflicted.

*The Council will work to ensure any and all emerging issues including but not limited to dealing with disparity across all I/DD issues, barriers to participating in a community setting, and roadblocks to access for people with I/DD are dealt with through policy changes. The Council will work to ensure the Self Determination Ombudsperson program at the Department of Developmental Services uses its authority to ensure people with I/DD become successful participants in the Self Determination Program.*

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## **PROMOTING ACCESS TO QUALITY SUPPORTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

Every person with I/DD should have the ability to fully participate in their communities. Receiving quality, individualized services is the cornerstone for people with I/DD to be safe, healthy and to promote self-determination, interdependence and inclusion. Community-based services/supports require adequate wages for providers; therefore, the state must restore rates. Disparities in access, outcomes and quality for services and supports must be addressed. Complexities in the service delivery systems must be reduced.

*The Council will work to continue to restore the Department of Developmental Services programs cut in 2009, to make meaningful improvements to the service delivery system to reduce disparities, increase transparency and accountability and increase quality outcomes, support efforts to provide adequate wages to providers for inclusive and quality supports, and work to ensure successful implementation of the Self-Determination Program.*

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## **ENSURING SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY**

Every person with I/DD has a right to be safe and must be provided emergency preparedness training and training in personal safety. Law enforcement personnel, first responders, emergency medical professionals and the judicial system must be trained in how to work with people with I/DD (including those who are suspects, victims or witnesses of crimes) during the course of their duties.

*The Council will work to ensure people with I/DD are safe, free from abuse and neglect and have access to services and supports in their communities during all types of disasters or emergencies and an adequate safety net for people in crisis and access to adequate crisis intervention services.*

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## **IMPROVING HOUSING AND COMMUNITY LIVING**

Every person with I/DD should have the opportunity to live in the community. Permanent, affordable, accessible, safe and sustained housing options must be continually developed. Statewide inclusive living options for individuals with I/DD must be increased and enhanced through access to housing and subsidies that are paired in a timely manner with needed services and supports.

*The Council will work to implement the policy recommendations in the Statewide Strategic Framework for Housing and create a dedicated housing fund to support integrated community housing for people with I/DD.*

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January 16, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM 8.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC**

**2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY FOCUSED PRESENTATION: Health,  
Home, Work – Legislating for a Thriving Tomorrow!**

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During the 2022 California state budgeting process, the California Dental Association, with support from the Council, advocated for a \$50 million grant program to improve the accessibility of dental offices/services.

At this meeting, members will hear from guest speakers from the California Dental Association that will provide an update on the status of the grant program following the release of the Governor’s proposed budget.

***Attachment(s)***

None.

***Handout(s)***

May be handouts the day of the meeting.

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January 16, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM 9.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC**

***Updates and Standing Agenda Items***

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The goal of this agenda item is for Committee members to provide updates on the following items and be updated on the actions of the Council.

Official agency updates on the DDS Taskforce and Workgroup, Self-Determination Program and CalABLE can be found by clicking the hyperlinks below.

- a. November Council Meeting Summary
- b. DDS Taskforce and Workgroup ([Updates](#) )
- c. Self-Determination Program ([Implementation Updates](#))

***Attachment(s)***

November Council Meeting Summary

***Handout(s)***

Could be additional handout(s) day of meeting.



# State Council Meeting Summary November 28, 2023

Ensure that Californians with developmental disabilities are guaranteed the same full and equal opportunities for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as all Americans.

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## SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

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- The State Council on Developmental Disabilities held its last Council meeting of 2023 on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The meeting focused on a closed session and a presentation regarding policy planning for 2024.
- Debra Cooper with the California Health and Human Services Agency was sworn in as a Council Delegate.
- The Council went into a closed session to complete the 2023 Executive Director Evaluation. When open session reconvened, the Chair announced that there was nothing to report from the closed session.

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## COUNCIL & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

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- **Chair Report:** Chair Witherspoon announced the 2024 committee assignments, which begins on January 1, 2024. He shared that he presented in person at the AUCD 2023 Conference in Washington, DC from November 5th through the 8th regarding leadership positions for people with disabilities. Lastly, he shared that he toured the White House.
- **Executive Director Report:** The Executive Director’s report highlighted the Council’s achievements for the year. The 2023 Program Performance Review showed significant progress under the State Plan, with the team exceeding expectations in four out of eleven objectives within two years. Collaborative partners increased from 500 to 850, impacting over 4 million Californians, particularly in underserved communities. A detailed report will be submitted by December 31st, with a presentation planned for the January Council meeting. The Executive Director commended the Policy team and Legislative and Public Policy Committee Chair Harold Ashe for their roles in legislative advocacy, leading to the enactment of significant bills in civil rights, education, and safety. Notable bills included AB 248 (Mathis) removing the R-word from state law, AB 545 (Pellerin) improving access for voters with

disabilities, and AB 544 (Laird) extending accessibility provisions. In education, AB 477 (Arambula) related to the Inclusive Higher Ed Act, and AB 87 (Quirk-Silva) allowed family recordings of 504 special education plan meetings. AB 946 (Nguyen) codified California Highway Patrol’s practices for endangered missing advisories, positively impacting over 4 million Californians. These bills have collectively benefited over 4 million Californians. The full report and handouts can be accessed at: <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

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## 2024 POLICY PLANNING

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- The 3rd annual “There Should Be a Law Contest!” received a total of 52 bill ideas, many about improving services, civil rights, and housing. Raquel Gibbons from Orange County was identified as the Bill Ideas Contest Winner. Her bill was about the lack of support for people with mental health and behavioral health conditions that include symptoms like aggression.
- LPPC recommended “Health, Home, Work” as the Council’s priorities to focus on during 2024. This theme is based on housing, mental health, and employment.

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## COUNCIL ACTIONS

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- Approved the Sept 2023 Council meeting minutes.
- Conducted the 2023 Executive Director Evaluation.
- Adopt the Legislative and Public Policy Committee’s recommendation to focus on legislative priorities that fall under the theme of “Health, Home, Work” during 2024.

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## FUTURE MEETING DATE

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- The next Council meeting will be on January 23, 2024.

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January 16, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM 10.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC**

***Member Updates***

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The goal of this agenda item is to allow Committee members time to provide local updates from their community on policy related issues not included in the agenda.

***Attachment(s)***

None.

***Handout(s)***

Could be additional handout(s) day of meeting.